April 27, 1959

Mr. Guy H. Haskins, Jr.
Skaffington, Haskins & Skaffington
98 Broad Street
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Re: John Coe

Dear Mr. Haskins:

You have requested information concerning our rock wool insulation. This material is made from limestone and blast furnace slag which are heated to a melting point. The molten rock is changed to wool and a small amount of linseed oil or phenolic resin is sprayed on the wool to act as a binder. This material then is cooled in a large chamber and collected loose or gathered and made into batts.

To the best of our knowledge our rock wool does not contain any free silica or asbestos, nor does it produce any form of pulmonary fibrosis or pneumoconiosis. We have no knowledge of claims for pneumoconiosis associated with the use of this material. For your reference I have enclosed a copy of a paper by L. T. Fairhall et al, entitled, "Rock Wool in Relation to Health". Unfortunately, I do not have any additional copies of a further reference, "Negative Chest Findings in A Mineral Wool Industry" by J. L. Carpenter and L. W. Spolyar. This appeared in the "Journal Indiana State Medical Association", Volume 38 in 1945. The summary of this article was:

1. 84 workers exposed to mineral wool for periods ranging from 7 to 29 years showed no x-ray evidence of silicosis or fibrosis of the lungs.

2. The emargerated linear findings exhibited were shown to be a characteristic of that community for that same age group.

A survey was conducted some years ago by the Industrial Health Section of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at one of our plants where mineral wool had been manufactured for nearly forty years. This survey was most thorough and included the examination of x-rays of four-hundred employees, a great majority of whom had been engaged in the manufacturing and handling of mineral wool for more than ten years, a large number for more than twenty-five years. Not a single case of silicosis or even of abnormal lung fibrosis was discovered as a result of these examinations and we were advised that we might safely conclude that mineral wool was "innocuous from the point of lung fibrosis".

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11094/1

I trust the foregoing will be of some assistance to you but if you require further information, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

Arthur L. Fisk, Jr.
Assistant General Attorney

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11094/2